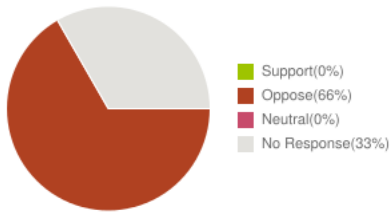


Agenda Item: eComments for *b. 2016-19-17 An Ordinance Appropriating Supplemental Funding in the Amount of \$75,000 for Legal Costs Relating to the Invocation Policy (Mayor) (Hearing on 12/06/16)

Overall Sentiment



Erin Hollowell

Location:

Submitted At: 10:13pm 11-22-16

To the Members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly:

May I humbly suggest that in this period of upheaval within our state, when many citizens are struggling with finances, that it is inappropriate to spend money fighting for a statute that is patently unconstitutional. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the making of any law respecting an establishment of religion, ensuring that there is no prohibition on the free exercise of religion.

Rather than spend money on legal fees and add to the already hefty burden of staff time that would be involved in vetting "approved" religious officers to deliver an invocation, it would be more appropriate to hold a moment of silence during which each person could pray or not according to the manner of their beliefs.

Thank you for your time and efforts for our community.

Sincerely,

Erin Hollowell

Dale Banks

Location:

Submitted At: 10:12pm 11-22-16

I am opposed to this ordinance and opposed to having an invocation before the Assembly meetings. If the invocation is potentially discriminatory and the Borough needs to use taxpayer money to try to defend a potentially discriminatory, potentially unconstitutional, and definitely unnecessary aspect of the meetings, then I suggest it is in the best interest of the borough to eliminate the invocation altogether and proceed directly to borough business at meetings.

Cynthia Morelli

Location:

Submitted At: 9:58pm 11-22-16

I am opposed to the Borough Assembly selecting any religious group to give an invocation at the start of the meeting. Please do not spend a single tax dollar on this question. Keep religion and government separate.

S. T. Roufa

Location:

Submitted At: 9:05pm 11-22-16

Please do not waste my taxpayer dollars proving to the world that you never read the First Amendment of the Constitution regarding not establishing religion. You have not been hired to run a prayer service. Remove the invocation. This is downright embarrassing.

Ben Gibson

Location:

Submitted At: 6:14am 11-22-16

I appreciate the Mayor's attempt to provide fiscal clarity to this issue. I think this is a total waste of taxpayers money and the invocation should be scrapped completely. Any religious group is welcome to do what they may when they want to, but the business of the borough (that is stuff that affects lives, liberties and taxes) must be performed independently of any religious preferences. Not only does this seem like a no-brainer for the courts, it is also the right thing to do. Think of it as good governance housekeeping. Thanks for your work.

Wayne Aderhold

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39am 11-21-16

While I agree with the transparency of this ordinance (acknowledging & estimating legal costs in going forward with the "invocation policy") I do not agree with spending a dime of public money on this issue. Attempting to go forward with an invocation has proven itself to be divisive and with no gain for the citizens of the Borough at large. To quote another author's commentary on James Madison's reasoned arguments in his "Memorial and

Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments": 'The Remonstrance argued that government suffered when religion was established, and that religion suffered the closer it got to government, and that human liberty suffered in either case.'

I believe that spending public money to fight the ACLU (or any other entity) over the constitutionality of an invocation amounts to an assessment in the name of religion in general, and is both a waste of money during tight budgets and likely illegal.